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Central Intelligence Agency



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

International Financial Situation Report #25 16 February 1984

Summary

. Major developments in recent weeks include:
Foreign banks have nearly completed the signing of their \$6.5 billion new money loan for Brazil. Despite the expected easing of Brazil's immediate cash problems, many international bankers and Brazilian officials continue to anticipate renewed financial problems later this year.
Embassy Lagos reports that a senior level Nigerian official sees little chance of signing an IMF letter of intent before June.
situation report was prepared by analysts of the Intelligence Directorate. Comments as me and may be addressed to the International Finance Branch, Office of Global Issues
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KEY ISSUE

Latin American Joint Proposals for Reducing Debt Service Costs

In contrast to previous debt conferences, several Latin American countries are following up on some of the speeches made during the Quito conference held in early January. In particular, calls continue for a new approach to handling the debt problem and for acceptance by creditors of co-responsibility with the debtors in solving it. Press reports indicate that presently several Latin American governments are more actively proposing that creditors grant softer terms on new and existing loans, including fixed or below-market interest rates as well as lower spreads and fees and longer maturities and grace periods.

- o On 5 February, Presidents Betancour of Colombia and Alfonsin of Argentina jointly emphasized the need for frank dialogue with creditors so as to work out affordable debt payment terms, according to a press report. Both leaders indicated that the current loan terms are detrimental to the development and political stability of Latin America.
- According to an Embassy report, Alfonsin—while in Caracas attending the inauguration of President Lusinchi—called for common financial policies among Latin American countries to strengthen their international position. Alfonsin and Lusinchi stated jointly that the necessary measures of austerity and rationalization must not significantly affect economic development plans, according to a press report.

There is no reason to believe that these countries will seek to jointly renegotiate their debts, but several of them may band together in proposing that creditors ease loan terms, even substantially beyond those recently given to Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. For example, the Colombian Foreign Minister on 10 February indicated that the Latin countries should take actions aimed at extending maturities and reducing interest rates, but every country should carry out its own negotiations, according to a press report. In our judgment, Latin American countries will continue to propose softer loan terms in upcoming meetings, such as the OAS special committee on Finance and Trade and the Inter-American Development Bank meeting—both to be held at the end of March. Provided the Brazilian government does not support joint proposals for substantially softer loan terms, we believe bankers will not be greatly disturbed by these actions.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MAJOR COUNTRIES

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Mexico City recently announced a series of measures to assist the private sector in meeting its debt obligations.

- In mid-January, Mexico City expanded the FICORCA Program—which provides firms with foreign exchange at subsidized rates—to debts contracted after December 1982, according to Embassy reporting. To qualify for the program, however, new borrowings must be for at least \$100,000 and have an eight-year repayment schedule and a four-year grace period. According to press reporting, smaller credits with maturities of at least 2.5 years will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- o Foreign exchange will be available at the controlled rate for the payment of suppliers' credits due in 1984, according to Embassy reporting. As a result, the private sector should be able to avoid rescheduling this debt. Mexico also extended the deadline for making peso deposits on overdue supplier credits by one month to 15 February. Mexico City still plans to transfer these funds to foreign creditors on 7 March 1984.
- o To ease the financial burden of firms with large peso debts, Mexican treasury officials announced that companies will be allowed to capitalize all or part of their past due interest payments and that domestic loans can be restructured for up to eight years.

<u>Brazil</u>

loan for Brazil, according	ng to statements made by Central Bank President Pastore to the begin disbursements soon.
Despite the ex international bankers a problems later this ye	spected easing of Brazil's immediate cash problems, many and Brazilian officials continue to anticipate renewed financial ear.

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Argentina
<u> </u>
We expect bankers to await a preliminary agreement with the IMF before making ew money available.
In our judgment, Grinspun likely to hold off talks on rescheduling the external debt—now estimated at some \$44 illion or \$5 billion higher than the figure used by the previous government—until both MF and Paris Club agreements are close at hand. In the interim, we expect liquid eserves—currently estimated by the Embassy at about \$700 million—to grow as crearages are allowed to accumulate.
REGIONAL SITUATIONS
atin America
Among Latin American countries, Venezuelan President Lusinchi dismissed entral Bank president Diaz Bruzual, Chile is scheduled to begin negotiations with its ank advisory committee on new money for 1984, and Peru restructured \$2 billion in debt t favorable terms.
Venezuela
Newly inaugurated Venezuelan President Lusinchi issued an executive decree to smiss controversial Central Bank president Diaz Bruzual because he was an obstacle to enezuelan economic policy, according to Embassy and press reports. Lusinchi appointed enito Raul Losada — the Central Bank president during 1974-78 — to replace him. Diaz ruzual has indicated his intentions to fight the dismissal by appealing to Venezuela's apreme court.
Venezuela's creditor banks believe that private sector companies will finally pay ome \$700 million in interest arrearages, according to press reports. Diaz Bruzual had revented private firms from obtaining foreign exchange to service their debts. It hough public and private interest arrearages soon may be cleared up, bankers do not spect swift progress on restructuring Venezuelan debt. A recent meeting with the three o-chairmen of the 13-member bank advisory committee was postponed by Lusinchi ecause the new finance minister, Manuel Azpurua, was not yet ready to begin formal scussions, according to the press. The bankers suggested that the meeting be estponed for a few weeks. The Embassy also reports that the new administration is arrently organizing a debt negotiation team.
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Lusinchi stated in his inaugural address on 2 February that Venezuela will pay all its foreign debts, according to Embassy and press reporting. He cautioned, however, that Venezuela will not permit debt repayments to hinder the country's capacity to achieve some economic growth. The US Embassy believes that this statement confirms their judgment that Lusinchi will not seek an IMF stabilization program but rather will aim at gradual adjustment that would appease international bankers. Lusinchi promised to announce an economic adjustment plan that would rebuild investor confidence in Venezuela. The bank advisory committee in late January granted Venezuela another 90-day deferral on principal repayments, according to press reporting. This is the fourth extension of Venezuela's debt moratorium since it stopped paying principal on most of its public sector debt in March 1983. According to press reporting, one of the co-chairmen of the bank advisory committee stated that Venezuela could complete the debt	25)
refinancing in late April or early May.	25)
Chile	
Finance Minister Caceres was to begin negotiations with the bank advisory committee this week for a new money loan for 1984	
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During the past month, Chilean officials signed agreements with international banks to restructure about \$1.6 billion in short- and medium-term credits to five public and private sector agencies, according to press reports The companies — Banco Central de Chile, Empresa Nacional de Electricidad, Banco de Chile, Banco de Santiago, and Banco del Estada — constitute approximately two-thirds of the total foreign debt to be refinanced by commercial banks the bank advisory committee believes all 24 companies will sign restructuring agreements by the end of March. Under terms of the agreements, payments due between 31 January 1983 and 31 December 1984 will be refinanced as an eight-year loan with a four-year grace period. Chile is guaranteeing the refinancing credits.	25 25 25
Peru	
Last week's agreement with the bank advisory committee for a nine-year restructuring of some \$2 billion in short- and medium-term debt at sharply reduced interest spreads will provide a political boost for the Belaunde government. The rescheduling, annnounced at meetings in New York last week, called for a cut in interest	
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charges by 0.6 percentage point to 1.625 percentage points above LIBOR, a five-year grace period, and a reduction of front-end fees by half a percentage point. The financial package received favorable press treatment at home where both President Belaunde and Finance Minister Rodriguez Pastor have been under fire for their handling of the economy. Rodriguez Pastor indicated publicly that Peru requested no new funds in 1984 beyond disbursement of the \$200 million in loans delayed due to Lima's failure to meet IMF targets. Bankers agreed to disburse these funds against the newly revised IMF agreement.	25X1
Peru and the IMF have signed a new letter of intent for an 18-month standby agreement worth some \$265 million; it replaced the \$700 million Extended Fund Facility initiated in mid-1982. Embassy sources report that the new program calls for limiting payments for military imports to \$200 million in 1984, down from an estimated \$350 million last year.	25X1 25X1 25X1
Ecuador	20/(1
According to Embassy reporting, Ecuador and its bank steering committee reached preliminary agreement to refinance debt maturing in first half 1984 on somewhat softer terms.	25X1 25X1
The steering committee has also agreed to suspend second-half 1984 debt payments until December to give the next government, which takes office in August, time to negotiate a new accord with the IMF and international creditors. The US Embassy anticipates that Quito will continue discussions with bankers to obtain \$500 million in new money necessary to cover its current account deficit, although bankers will likely resist commitments until Quito reaches a new agreement with the Fund. Delays in reaching such an agreement by the new President—who will be elected in the May runoff—would strain Ecuador's cash position and probably force the government to run up its arrearages well beyond last year's \$500 million.	25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1
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We believe prospects for clearing up arrearages and reaching an IMF agreement are dim. We estimate that Bolivian exports will increase by only 1 percent in 1984, which would be insufficient to eliminate overdue payments. The IMF negotiations remained deadlocked over the budget deficit, and we believe it will be politically and technically difficult for La Paz to scale down the budget deficit from 20 percent of GDP	

in 1983 to 4-5 percent in 1984 as the IMF is likely to demand. Moreover, according Embassy reporting, the Siles government's recent concessions to labor—wage increase and temporary price controls—will impede negotiations with the IMF.	to es,
Eastern Europe	
In Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia and the IMF are continuing talks on a 1984 stands agreement, and Poland's rescheduling talks with foreign creditors have made little progress.	oy le 2
Yugoslavia	
After a one-week postponement, an IMF team went to Belgrade this week for the third round of talks on a standby agreement for 1984. Negotiators will try to break the deadlock on several tough issues, particularly the IMF's demand that Yugoslaviantroduce positive real interest rates by yearend. According to Embassy reporting Belgrade is willing to make this adjustment only in gradual stages over a two-vest period.	ie ia r.
According to the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In I the interest of the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In I the interest of the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In I the interest of the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In I the interest of the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In I the interest of the IME has added a requirement that Younglain In Ime has a dded a requirement that Younglain I	g :
o the US Embassy, the IMF has added a requirement that Yugoslavia devalue the dina 8 percent by mid-March; Yugoslavia has offered to devalue by 12 percent.	ur 2
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In our assessment, reaching agreement will be complicated by the Yugoslav	S [†]
he government is considering a so-called black option that would reject IMF supporentirely. We believe failure to reach agreement with the IMF, however, will jeopardize	·t
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In Western Europe, serious problems have emerged between Portugal and the IME egarding 1984 targets, and the international banking community is becoming concerned bout Greece's economic situation. Portugal According to Embassy reporting, serious problems have emerged between the ortuguese government and the IMF regarding renegotiation of 1984 targets. The IME is unable to complete the work planned for the recent February mission due that collection and preparation on public companies and inadequate policy riculation by Portuguese officials. To complete the mission, the government must sent team to Washington before the end of February with the necessary data. The IMF is nendecide whether a basis exists under which certain standby targets might be enegotiated. As a consequence of the IMF's inability to complete the review at this me, Portugal would be temporarily unable to make further drawings under the standby greement after 31 March. Greece The international banking community is becoming increasingly concerned about the continued deterioration of the Greek economy external debt has risen by 50 percent during the past two years to \$13 billion. Greece has more than \$3 billion in foreign debt maturing in 1984, but neternational reserves amount to only \$850 million, representing less than one month of mports and a fiscal deficit that exceeds 15 percent of GNP. To date, the country has had few roblems in raising external credits. Philippines Prime Minister Virata, in a conversation on 26 January with Treasury officials redicted that a letter of intent could be signed with the IMF by the third week or redicted that a letter of intent could be signed with the IMF by the third week or the Philippine government will stretch negotiation that the May parliamentary elections. According to Embassy reporting, Virata indicate that the Fund is willing to tolerate a dual exchange rate system on a temporary basis lowever, Manila is belking at the IMF's demand for a devaluation of the pes prior to the primary and the pri		
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rate. Commercial banks in Manila are responding positively accept peso deposits in exchange for a Central Bank guar unspecified future date	to a Central Bank pledge to antee to pay dollars at an
Fernandez said that he plans changes in personnel and in the	of whom could have been —are likely candidates for og aside foreign exchange to
The IMF remains troubled by Manila's management of Philippine banks place deposits with foreign banks in exchange for new lines if Manila could plug these and other foreign maintain interest payments through the current moratorium maintaining trade finance at only half of last October's launning low; we expect large worker layoffs if agreement is soon.	are reportedly offering to of credit. exchange leakages, it could. While such measures are evels, inventories are now
Indonesia	
Embassy and press reports indicate that Indonesia havesponse to its long awaited \$500 million loan syndication. down within a week, and Indonesia has agreed to take a \$600 priginally intended to enter the financial markets in later processing out of concern over possible adverse market real Philippines. Indonesia has no immediate need for the funds, to use the loan to bolster the country's estimated \$4.5 billiporder to insure the success of the syndication, Indonesia, I forced to price its loans more attractively. The eight-year \$375 million tranche priced at 0.75 percentage points above portion at 0.2 above US prime. Last year's \$500 million creates pread of 0.5 percentage points above LIBOR.	Indeed, the loan was sold million loan. Indonesia had e 1983 but postponed its ction due to events in the and bankers expect Jakarta on in foreign reserves. In ike South Korea, has been loan has been split into a LIBOR and a \$125 million
Africa/Middle East	
Nigeria	
Embassy Lagos reports that a senior level Nigerian firsttle chance of signing an IMF letter of intent before June	
currently meeting with the Fund in Washington.	A Nigerian delegation is
Nigerian Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finar	nce, Alhaji, indicated to US tely essential." In addition

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oil export revenues.	25X1 25X1
The Nigerian government is anxious to conclude refinancing discussions with commercial and official creditors prior to signing an agreement with the IMF. According to Embassy reporting, Nigerian officials noted that as long as trade finance lines remain blocked, Lagos is at a disadvantage in negotiations with the Fund. However, most official creditors continue to link the rescheduling of \$2 billion in officially guaranteed trade credits and the extension of new credits to an IMF agreement.	
Nigeria remains current on medium-term obligations and according to Embassy reporting, has no intention of rescheduling these obligations.	25X1 25X1 25X1

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Trade Trends in Key Debt-Troubled Countries Million US Dollars at a Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

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		nnual				Quarte	rly				1983	3	
	1981	1982	821	8211	82111	82IV	83I	8311	83111	Jul			Comment
Argentina												<u> </u>	COMMENT
Exports	9,140	7,620	0.700	0.240									
Imports	9,140		8,780		5,980	7,380	7,800		7,770	7,620	7,750	7,930	New import control system imposed
Balance	-290	5,340	6,490	5,450	4,840	4,770	4,280	4,840	4,880	4,860	5,020	4,750	last month.
Brazil	-290	2,280	2,290	2,890	1,140	2,610	3,520	2,600	2,890	2,760	2,730	3,180	Tust morters
Exports	23,290	20 100	21 (00	10 000	20.					•	•	-,	
Imports	24,080	20,180	21,680	,	20,170	19,070	20,810	23,110	22,430	21,910	23,300	22,090	Embassy reports full year 1983 surplus
Balance	-790	21,070 -890	22,080		20,770	19,880	17,560	16,220	16,060	14,780	17,170	16,240	at \$6.5 billion, and Jan. 1984
Chile	-/50	-090	-400	-1,670	-600	-810	3,250	6,890	6,370	7,130	6,130	5,850	surplus at \$8.7 billion annual rate.
Exports	3,910	2 020	2 010	2 000							•	* •	sarpras ac 40.7 printion annual race.
Imports	6,360	3,820	3,910	3,880	3,850	3,590	3,660	4,170	3,940	3,420	4,380	4,020	
Balance	-2,450	3,530	4,210	4,390	2,960	2 , 770	2,820	2,690	2,970	2,240	2,770	3,900	
Costa Rica		290	-300	-510	890	820	840	1,480	970	1,180	1,610	120	
Exports	960	870	000	000							•		
Imports			920	920	840	800	790	810	990	820	1,070	1,080	
Balance	1,210 -250	870	860	880	890	820	900	990	980	950	960	1,030	
Ecuador	-250	0	60	40	- 50	- 20	-110	-180	10	-130	110	50	
Exports	2 5 40	2 140	0.000	0.700									
Imports	2,540	2,140	2,360	2,190	2,250	1,800	2,280	2,210	2,020	1,940	2,160	1,960	Embassy reports \$900 million trade
Balance	2,250 290	1,990	2,290	2,040	2,120	1,510	1,560	1,440	1,290	1,320	1,340	1,210	surplus for full year 1983.
Indonesia	290	150	70	150	130	290	720	770	730	620	820	750	surplus for full year 1903.
Exports	22 260	22 200	00 200										
Imports	22,260 13,270	22,290	22,390		20,730		18,030	15,930	16,750	17,470	17,160	15,610	
Balance		16,860	15,920		15,260	18,260	20,580	13,950	14,460	14,950		13,930	
Ivory Coast	8 , 990	5,430	6,470	5,000	5,470	5,010	- 2,550	1,980	2,290	2,520	2,680	1,680	
Exports	2,530	2 200	2 000	0.000						•		-,	
Imports	2,330 2,380	2,300	2,820	2,350	1,870	2,160	2,400	1,720	1,780	2,040	1,380	1,920	
Balance	2,380 150	2,180 120	2,580	2,150	2,070	1,940	2,150	1,760	1,600	2,180	1,570	1,060	•
Kenya	130	120	240	200	-200	220	250	-40	180	-140	-190	860	
Exports	1,180	1,050	1 120	1 000									
Imports	2,130	1,740	1,130	1,030	1,000	930	820	800	680	560	770	710	Narobi has slashed duties on most
Balance	- 950		2,180	1,670	1,270	1,340	1,070	1,140	1,020	760	840	1,260	imports by an average of 15 percent.
Mexico	-550	-090	-1,050	-640	-270	-410	- 250	-340	-340	-200	-70	-550	mpores of an avorage of 15 percent.
Exports	19,380	21,580	17,470	20 170	24 260	* 4 # 0 0							
Imports											22,240	22,370	Mexico has eliminated licensing
Balance	-4,690				12,120	7,400	6,560	8,810	8,800	7,670	9,430	9,290	requirements for about 5 percent
LAIL LICE	-4,090	7,020	-4, 930	3,550	12,240	17,120	13,410	11,890	13,020	13,170	12,810	13,080	of its imports.
	-	-											25X1
													20/(1

25X1

Trade Trends in Key Debt-Troubled Countries- (continued) Million US Dollars at a Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

	An	nual				Quarter	-ly				1983		
	1981	1982	821	8211	82111	82IV	831	8311	83111	Jul	Aug	Sep	Comment
Morocco													
Exports	2,390	2,060	1,990	1,950	2,130	2,190	2,020	2,000	2,040	1,910	2,000	2,200	
Imports	4,400	4,310	4,290	4,330	4,580	4,100	3,660	3,390	3,910	3,590	4,250	3,890	
Balance	-2,010	-2,250	-2,300	-2,380	-2,450	-1,910	-1,640	-1,390	-1,870	-1,680	-2,250	-1,690	
Nigeria	-,010	-,-00	-,	_,	-,	-,	_,	-,	-,	-,	-,	•	
Exports	17,370	14,280	15,120	13,040	13,880	15,120	6,920	12,000	14,300	14,300	14,300	14,300	Military gov't has tightened import
Imports	19,600	15,120	19,280	16,760	11,160	13,320	9,560	9,360	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200	and foreign exchange restrictions.
Balance	-2,230	-840	-4,160	-3,720	2,720	1,800	-2,640	2,640	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,100	
Peru	2,230	0.10	-,	0,	_,	-,	-,	_,		-,			
Exports	3,250	3,290	3,210	3,470	3,160	3,210	2,680	3,250	2,840	2,960	2,870	2,690	5-10 percent tax imposed on
Imports	3,450	3,600	4,120	3,540	3,540	3,230	2,530	2,420	2,540	2,300	2,560	2,770	traditional metals exports.
Balance	-200	-310	-910	- 70	-380	-20	150	830	300	660	310	-80	
Philippines		310	310	, ,	300		150	0.50	555	000	010	-	
Exports	5,650	4,970	5,080	5,190	4,760	4,830	4,660	4,780	4,920	5,370	4,810	4,590	Philippine press reports a sharp rise
Imports	8,470	8,270	8,590	8,370	7,960	8,260	8,200	8,220	7,680	7,390	7,970	7,670	in the 4th gtr. trade deficit.
Balance	-2,820	-3,300	-3,510	-3,180	-3,200	-3,430	-3,540	-3,440	-2,760	-2,020	-3,160	-3,080	in the fair quit trade derivite.
Venezuela	-2,020	-3,300	-3,510	-3,100	-3,200	-3,430	-3,340	-3,440	-2,700	-2,020	-3,100	-3,000	
	20,120	16,440	18,600	16,200	16,600	18,530	14,990	16,970	14,730	14,730	14,730	14,730	
Exports				13,080	12,990	11,670	10,020	8,120	8,020	8,020	8,020	8,020	
Imports	13,110	12,580	12,520										
Balance	7,010	3,860	6,080	3,120	3,610	6,860	4,970	8,850	6,710	6,710	6,710	6,710	
Zaire		570	700	500	500	500	610	5.00	F20	440	600	F20	
Exports	660	570	700	590	500	500	610	560	520	440	600	520	
Imports	670	480	570	520	470	380	370	570	510	470	490	580	
Balance	-10	90	130	70	30	120	240	-10	10	-30	110	-60	

Exports f.o.b. and imports c.i.f. are based on IMF <u>International Financial Statistics</u> and are seasonally adjusted; consequently quarterly data may not add to annual totals.

Numbers in bold are CIA estimates Note:

Exports 134,630 123,460 126,160 121,650 122,080 127,900 108,440 116,450 117,530 116,330 119,520 116,720 Imports 134,880 112,500 128,380 118,800 103,000 99,650 91,820 83,920 83,920 80,680 86,070 84,800 Balance -250 10,960 -2,220 2,850 19,080 28,250 16,620 32,530 33,610 35,650 33,450 31,920

Total